TRANSCRIPT—BECKY STONE AND PAT STONE

Interviewees: Becky Stone and Pat Stone

Interviewer: Tealey Ellis and Judith Robertson

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Tealey Ellis: I believe from looking at your information sheet that neither of you are from Fairview originally. Is that correct?

Both: Yes

TE: Just for the record, so that we know where you did move here from, would you share that?

Becky Stone: I was born and raised in Philadelphia and we moved here from Philadelphia. I'd gone away to school, but I guess most of my life I'd been in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Pat Stone: I was born in Atlanta. Went to college up East, met her at college. Chased her down to Philadelphia and persuaded her to move south.

Both: And you moved here when?

PS: '78.

Both: 1978.

BS: Yes.

Both: So, you've been here a good while then.

BS: Umhm.

Both: Have either of you been here before or North Carolina before.

BS: Yes

PS: We used to come down. We knew John and Annie Ager, of Clarke's Farm, from college, and me from elementary school. We knew them and visited them a lot. John and I went to Williams College. Becky and Annie went to Vassar College. Both were single sex. Decided to see what it was like to have the other sex on campus. So, one spring semester John and I were two of eighty males on the 1600 women campus of Vassar College. Twenty-to-one in our favor. So finally, we met somebody who put up with us. He met Annie and I met Becky. So, we knew each other from pretty far back.

Both: Living in a place is different than visiting a place. For each of you what were your impressions, your thoughts when you did move here, and I guess maybe back up just a tiny bit, what prompted you to move here, and once you got here what did you think about it.

BS: We had kind of lived here short term over several years. Over about five years we would come down and stay for a week or two weeks and one time John and Annie went away and we just stayed in their house. So, I had a good sense of what I was moving to.

PS: First night she opened a drawer and a black snake came out of it.

BS: Well, it was in the kitchen. It was the morning we had just said goodbye to them and we went to clean up the breakfast dishes, and there was a black snake in the drawer. At any rate, we'd had those experiences before we moved here. But, I really was getting laid off by the Philadelphia school system and was hoping for the chance to live in the country, and had always been kind of hoping that. When I got fed up with the school system, I saw this is the time. Pat

and I looked at a lot of places but he, this was the farthest south. He didn't want to go back to Atlanta. Because I had visited, I said all right to moving here instead of Amherst, Massachusetts. We were looking at the middle of Massachusetts. I really didn't think that we would be here for a super long time, but it felt like home almost immediately. And we ended up—we didn't want to have our children in Philadelphia at that point. We were kind of ready to start a family, and I was ready to quit the school system, which was our consistent financial support, so all the signs were pointing towards moving here.

PS: What you can't hear on a sound recording is that Becky's black and I'm white, and this is 1978. So, it was a big move for her to be willing to move south and rural, to leave the North, her urban background, it took a lot of courage, it took her years to be willing to consider it. I'm still grateful for that. I went to summer camp up here. I loved these mountains, so I always wanted to live here. Now I live at summer camp, live between a mountain and a creek and made the trail to both, so it's great.

Both: Becky, you had said that when you moved here and you didn't know how long it would be but this was going to be home and you said it felt like home and you felt comfortable. In what ways?

BS: Oh, I felt comfortable with the pace of living and slowing down everything. I felt comfortable with the fact that for the most part when people met you they chatted for awhile and I enjoy meeting people so that felt really comfortable. It was an adventure, heating with wood and that sort of thing. I enjoyed that, I preferred that to living boxed in, which is what I felt in Philadelphia. Philly has a great park system, but the parks always came to an end, and there was, there was the city. And we were fortunate enough after about a year, I can't remember when we moved over to the farm. We first lived in Gerton in an abandoned house, and after so many odd

months, I can't remember how many months, a rental house became available at Hickory Nut Gap Farm. We knew everyone there because we had visited for so long, and John and Annie had one of the houses on the farm. So, Mrs. Clarke gave us the opportunity to move in there.

Both: That would have been Annie's mother?

BS: Yes.

TE: Elspeth?

BS: Yes.

PS: I have to go back to the racial angle. We moved into Gerton in 1978. There weren't a whole lot of other people of any other ethnicity than white. It was a big deal. The Clarkes were huge in helping people accept us. They were kind of our cushion. But the other thing that was really important, we tried our best to make ourselves acceptable. We moved into Gerton, because that was the only place we could find a house, it was a really rundown house. They bulldozed it after we moved out. The bedroom was exposed on five of the six exterior walls. Ice would form on the inside on a cold night. Moved in there and the first thing we did was go across the street and introduce ourselves to the neighbors, and go down the road and introduce ourselves to the neighbors, and show people who we were. So, they would see us as people. We went the very first week to Bearwallow Baptist Church and went to the church service among the faithful and the farm people from Hickory Nut, started to go there. Years later I went back to tell stories at the Gerton Community Center and told about our moving into Gerton, and one woman came up to me afterwards and said, I remember when you all moved in. After that first week people said, Who is that woman? Second week she got up and sang a solo and they went, She's all right. So that was very helpful. But on a separate recording, you should get Becky telling her story, which

she performed professionally of her first visit to the farm. You should get that, that's part of the history, and a great story she tells.

TE: We'd be more than happy to, if you were willing.

BS: Oh. Okay

TE: Think about it.

PS: That'll give you a lot of local color.

TE: The question that I'm going to ask now, normally I ask a little farther in

PS: I'm going to interrupt again. I'm such a bad boy. So, we didn't want to be in Gerton—sorry, Gerton, formerly known as Rump, because somebody misread the word Pump. We wanted to be in Fairview, it was a long-distance phone call from Gerton to Fairview. We were away from everybody we wanted to hang out with. It was just the only place we could find a place to live, and that was great. So, we wrote a song to commemorate how much we loved Gerton. Gerton, Gerton, Gerton, our beautiful mountain home

BS and PS: Gerton, Gerton, Gerton, from it we'll never roam, there's no place, there's no place like Gerton USA, so we'll be living in Gerton until our dying day

PS: and we moved out in June.

Judith Robertson: It's a lovely little town. We went up there for the Fourth of July and it was delightful.

BS: It was a nice little community, and it was smaller when we moved in, but different from these days.

PS: People have been great here. Everybody's been great.

TE: The question I was going to ask, normally I would ask a little farther into the interview, but this seems to be the appropriate time. Each of you have addressed the fact that

being married and different races, difficulties or not difficulties of fitting in wherever you might have gone during that time period. From 1978 to where we are now in 2019, what changes if any have you seen in the racial makeup of Fairview, and this area.

BS: Annie used to deliver eggs from the farm out to people in the community. She would deliver to several black homes in the black section of Fairview. The church is still there. I really felt, and with my kids going to Fairview, then to Reynolds, the black population moved away. Slowly but surely, folks are coming back, and they're not necessarily people who were raised here. Sometimes I meet people in the grocery story or the post office and they have moved here from somewhere else. So, I don't know if the native-born black kids who moved away are coming back. But I feel the population is growing a bit.

TE: You referenced back in time a black population, section, where was that?

BS: Concord Road, and Emmas Grove joins, and then you're going up and down, but it's more or less straight. There's a small church to the left that is still a black church, if it's up and functioning. Occasionally on a Sunday I would drive by and see folks going in and out. And then Concord Road itself, I think it's called Old Concord Road now, used to loop off Concord Road and come back in. That's where we would deliver eggs. Annie could tell you much better of course, because she was driving and I was just chatting with her and go into the houses. And it was kind of like a ministry. Everywhere we delivered eggs, we visited with the people.

JR: That was a long egg run.

BS: Yeah. It took a day. It took the whole day. And some people were in Biltmore, and some people were in little farmhouses out here in Fairview.

TE: How much was a dozen of eggs?

BS: Oh, I couldn't tell you. I don't remember, and as far as, I don't remember money exchanging hands. I don't know how she dealt with paying. But that was Annie.

TE: They could have been, Pay me later or

PS: I'm going to interrupt, interrupt, hahaha

TE: Go ahead.

PS: We got married in '72. Interracial marriage was still illegal in some states. So, when I look back at the last fifty odd years and look at the way society may not have progressed. This is one way in which it's progressed. There's still lots of huge racism still in this country, lots of institutional things like that. But in terms of accepting people of other races, being married and being in relationships—Ukrainians, whatever, Mexicans, everybody. That mixture goes through all classes now. It's in Fairview, it's wide in Fairview, and I'm just incredibly grateful for it. That's real progress. One year, the AARP magazine came to our house. On the cover was a man saying, Eighty-two percent of people in America now approve of interracial marriage. And I was like, That's so incredible. It was tough for us, and it was tough for our parents, not as tough as you might think, but it was not easy. So, I showed that to my youngest son Tucker, he was eleven, he was mad. What, eighteen percent of people don't? Right on, brother, here's the torch. It's been great. People have been very good to us all along, and to our children in the schools. So, I'm very grateful and I do think that's an important progression and an important thing to point out.

TE: I appreciate that because I think it's important, too, and more power to your son, a good mathematician, too

PS: They're much further ahead on the whole racial spectrum than we are, active on the issues. Our daughter-in-law who works for a social justice group helping poor prisoners. We have a son works in inner-city schools in Atlanta. Our kids are very sensitive about stuff.

TE: I believe that children reflect what they've been taught for the most part, at home and their parents, the direction children seem to go in. And I'm sure you're proud of them, too.

BS: Yeah. Yeah.

TE: So, you lived in Gerton and then you came to Fairview. When you came to Fairview, is that the house where you are now?

BS: No, we moved into the rental house, and it's again, a rental house, that's right next to Sherrill's Inn. You can see it from the road, it's smaller, it was built in the '40s for Jamie and Elspie to move into, her parents built that for them after they married. And we moved in with the understanding that if the family needed it, that we would move out. That happened after a couple of years, after Jessie was born, Jessie was born in that house. And our first child was born in the Bat Cave Valley Clinic, which is no longer there, that burned down, and I don't know what they're using the space for now, but that's down in Bat Cave. So, we moved, I even forget who moved into the picture window house. We moved into the milker's house, which is the house on the road next to the spring which you may not notice.

PS: If you go up the mountain and you're heading over Hickory Nut Gap, there's one house close to the road

BS: You see the big house and the horse pasture, the side of the horse pasture, is a two-story house with a porch, and there's a spring next to it

PS: We'd sit on the porch playing music, and people would stop their cars and say, Look, there's indigenous mountain people, let's go hear them play

BS: And from there, they needed that house again. So, from that point we started looking for property or a house to buy, and Mrs. Clarke for whatever reason because I never asked and she never said

PS: Goodness of her heart

BS: Said that she didn't want us to leave and she wanted to sell us a piece of her, their property, the family's property. It took two years for the family, that we could find a place that the family agreed to, but that's when we built. We started to build and moved into the house where we are now.

JR: It's actually a very nice story.

BS: She's a very great woman.

PS: Very sweet.

TE: Annie was the first interview that Judith and I did when this project started, and I was nervous, very nervous. She was just fantastic helping me to feel comfortable. She just took over and talked, and I would ask a question every now and then. She was very gracious.

BS: They all learned from her parents to be people—people-people.

PS: She's an exceptional person.

TE: We talked a little bit earlier about best aspects of living in Fairview. And you talked earlier about acceptance for something that was different, visual difference for people to see, and the acceptance at that level. And I believe if I'm correct, one or both of you said you still believe that exists today in Fairview for individuals sharing their lives together who are not the same ethnically. You still think that that's

BS: Yeah, I feel that there were some rules then and some rules now that you need to adhere to still. And that is, land is a tough issue. Politics can be a tough issue, moreso than race.

And it helps if you're a Christian. So, being involved with the church, serving in some way. I did Meals on Wheels for Annie, got me involved in that, I did Meals on Wheels for years and never ran into any racism until I went to the volunteer meeting. Volunteers from all over the county. I can point to instances of confronting racism in other places. But it might have been our first visit when we met Baby Doll and went on a tour up there to Grace's house, the McAbees. I'm so bad at describing things, but they live up behind, up past the kennel and up past Roy Ramsey's land, up there. And John took us up there because it's a chance to see a cabin that had been there for decades. And so it was John and Pat and me. And Baby Doll was taking us around. And as usual I have my eyes to the ground looking for interesting plants, and I saw this little thing over there that looked like a mushroom but it wasn't

PS:. Puffball mushroom. Puffball

BS: Puffball mushroom. And I asked, What's that? And Baby Doll said, Them's what we call nigger toes. And then he looked at me and went, Oh, I'm so sorry. And he apologized. And I said, Thank you for the apology. I understand. So many times that kind of thing has happened to me in my life, and never had anyone apologized. To me that said these people are right up front, just straight and honest and direct, and I thought, I can trust them. Can't always trust them to say—our neighbors had a dad who was quite racist and everyone else in the family, I don't know, he had eight or nine kids, and a wife, and he was an alcoholic and fairly abusive. He was just okay talking with me. I saw him very little. But I did learn from the kids what he said. So, I knew he was racist. I was wonderfully embraced by all of those children and his wife who just passed recently, his common-law wife she was then.

JR: Who is Baby Doll?

BS: Baby Doll McAbee. What was his real name?

PS: I don't know.

BS: His wife was Grace McAbee and his sons were Clarence and Henry McAbee. One of them may have been named after him. I really don't know what his name was. Grace worked for Mr. and Mrs. Clarke at the house, and her sons, I guess it was Rooster, Henry, Rooster worked occasionally. Clarence's nickname was T-Bone, and he worked there until he retired just recently. I can't tell you exactly what years. The connection was through the Clarkes that we knew the McAbees.

PS: The kind of indigenous mountain people, that heated with wood, and didn't have cars, lived that self-sufficient lifestyle. There were still remnants of that when we moved here. Some of those were working for the Clarkes. I was really privileged to be around them.

BS: Yes, so when I say old timers, that's who I'm thinking of, is those guys

PS: Pre-TV. I mean, TV existed, but it wasn't their world.

JR:A lot of the people we've been interviewing.

TE: Fabulous, amazing people that we've interviewed. Having lived here five years now and being involved with this project, I think I said earlier, I've come to learn a lot about interesting people in Fairview and what it was like and how it's different now. One of the things I found interesting in talking with people is perceptions maybe mixed with a little bit of reality as to who were community leaders, who were people that were looked upon as maybe spearheading things. I know the Clarkes were always involved in a lot of things. Do you recall from your earlier time here, and coming through the years, people that might have been considered leaders that would step up for whatever the reasons?

BS: Gerton, certainly the Freemans, but other people than the Clarkes

PS: You know you have all sorts of people in the fire department and the schools, who we really don't know very well. The incident I remember most, John Ager was a local leader before he was an elected official, and there was the whole discussion about having zoning in Fairview. Do you know much about this?

JR: Oh, we've heard about that.

TE: Share what you know might be different.

PS: The county was pushing, the Agers were pushing to have zoning in Fairview. What was built where. There was a lot of resistance to that. Finally, there was this community meeting in the gym at the Fairview school. And it was the most heated meeting I think I've ever been to. And finally, somebody in the audience said, Let's have a vote and vote this committee out of existence. And they did, they just basically disbanded the whole zoning committee of Fairview, which, Rules of Roberts, procedure, whatever. And Nathan Ramsey, who I like a lot, Nathan's a good guy, was the key center of this anti-zoning force

BS: Would it be his dad?

PS: They both were. Nathan was really the one who was acting on it and started putting up those No Zoning signs all over Buncombe County, giant no, because it was on the ballot, and it got voted down and got himself elected as one of the city council people, county commissioners, moved on to being the state representative. And I think politics was good for him, because then he kind of saw both sides of the issues. And he and his wife did tons of great social work, you should interview them. They really have a wonderful perspective. But that was the most heated moment I ever saw in Fairview.

JR: Could we back up just a little bit, because you told us how you came to Fairview and where you lived. But you haven't told us what you do, or what you have done, in terms of your employment.

BS: I was a homemaker

PS: Once you got here. You were a school counselor up in Philadelphia.

BS: Oh, in Philadelphia I did work for the school system as a counselor. When I came here, we first lived in Gerton, but Annie asked Sandra Oates if they would employ me. I was pregnant and alone most of the day because Pat was working in the Asheville city schools,

JR: Who is Sandra Oates?

BS: Sandra and Lemuel Oates owned Manual Woodworkers. And they picked me up, took me to work and brought me back. They were key to my tying into the Gerton community and having something to do and getting a little money. But I did not work once we had kids. We just decided, less money, and I would raise the children. I didn't work until our youngest was in high school. And I worked for ten years teaching drama, which is what my major is.

TE: And where was that?

BS: At Veritas Christian Academy in Fletcher. And I stopped teaching because I wanted to perform. And that's what I do now. About four years out.

JR: And what do you perform?

BS: I'm primarily a storyteller. I think that's how most people think of me in Fairview and Gerton. We tell for the library, Friends of the Library often ask us to tell, and the community center in Gerton. But since I quit teaching, I do very little theatre and very little storytelling because people keep calling me to do my historical characters for Chautauquas. And so that's how I'm performing. I just got back from a week in Ohio, and I'm about to go for ten days, the

first few days to Nebraska and then to Colorado. And then that's it, I'm just too old to do much more.

JR: Who would you be doing when you're travelling?

BS: In Nebraska I'll present Rosa Parks, and in Greeley, Colorado, I'll present Harriet Tubman. And I just did Maya Angelou in Ohio. The first character I ever did, I thought I was going to get a job to do her next June, but they switched to Rosa Parks

PS: The most famous black woman you've never heard of

BS: Pauli Murry. And I did her for Pack Library, the Friends of that library asked me to do her in February, so I did work her up again.

Could you say the name again?

BS: Pauli Murray. They just named a residential college at Yale after her. She did go there for graduate

PS: We didn't know who she was either

BS: It's worth knowing who she is

PS: So, when we lived in Gerton I had a three or four month job as a teacher's aide for a woman who was on maternity leave. That was the only job we had. That's when Becky's doing this packing boxes for Manual Woodworkers. So we said, Okay, we're ready. Let's get pregnant. So, we got her pregnant with this part-time job that's going to end in January. The job ends, we go out to Pizza Hut to eat on a Friday night because this is going to be our last night eating out for a long time. And the next morning I get a phone call and I was hired to be a writer at Mother Earth News magazine. I'd been applying for the job for months. I was out of work one night. God was very good to us then. And I've been in publishing ever since. I worked there a dozen

years and then we started our own magazine, Green Prints, The Weeders Digest, a magazine that shares the personal side to gardening, which this library has a subscription to.

JR: Is it still in publication?

PS: Yeah, thirty years

BS: It doesn't support us

PS: It mostly supports us. Don't let her say that. Erase that section.

BS: He does other writing gigs and a few speaking gigs, and I do my performing, and with that we would get by, but we're able to live comfortably, if we work other things in addition.

JR: Do you perform together?

PS: Not much

BS: Mostly here

PS: She's the star. We go in town and I'm her arm candy. Everybody's goes after Becky, Becky. Oh, Becky, you're Becky Stone.

BS: Oh, dear, but it's not just from the performing. It's also because I'm active in organizations

PS: She's been the chairman of the YWCA

BS: No, I haven't. I've never been an officer of that board, but I've been on the board twice.

PS: She's been on the board, excuse me. She's now co-chairman of Diana Wortham Theatre. She's on this board and that board, runs the stories on Asheville's Front Porch. Even when she wasn't working, being a "homemaker" I considered her myself as employed as a social worker, she kept volunteering to do so many things.

BS: And we did great things, with AFS we took in exchange students

PS: Hold on, another thing we do, we have been the music team of Fairview Christian Fellowship, the church right above this library, since that church started, over thirty-five years

BS: [stage whisper] we're trying to find somebody

PS: She's guitar, I'm mandolin, and we do the music there every Sunday we're around. We've done it for three and a half decades.

BS: Yeah, we're founding, charter members I guess you'd say, of that church. It was initiated again by people on the farm, the Hamiltons and the Agers.

TE: I just want to comment. You were talking about your performances and those people that you portray. I saw your performance at the library here, Maya Angelou. I think I've told Judith this and everybody I saw the next two weeks, was like, I was just amazed. I had to keep reminding myself that you were not actually Maya Angelou, but I sure felt that way, and I finally gave up and got into it, and it was amazing. I know that all your other performances must be the same.

BS: I get to do Maya a lot, because people know her and they loved her.

TE: And I know that you're going to be involved in November, part of the twentieth anniversary celebration of David Holt, so I'm really looking forward to that, too.

BS: We're hosting, so I guess they're giving us a five-minute story, something like that, but basically, we'll be emceeing it, introducing folks.

TE: As your children were growing up here in Fairview, what were the kinds of things that they did for recreation maybe as they became young teens?

PS: Sports, sports, sports and sports

BS: Mostly sports. We took our cues from John and Annie. Our oldest is kind of Jamie's age, their youngest, Jamie and Doug, they were close friends. And you just did sports year-round. When the Fairview Athletic Association had sign-ups, you signed up.

PS: I've coached at least twenty park and rec soccer teams, challenge teams, I've coached many basketball teams, assistant coached baseball teams. That's what you did. And it was a great way to work together as a community. Sports in Fairview, sports for children, they can get over wrought up with themselves, people can get too carried away. But basically, they're great things and great ways for people of different paths to meet together and work together.

BS: Yeah. And they all played for Reynolds, various sports.

PS: Oh, another thing, another thing. Our youngest son Tucker was the first student ever to walk inside Cane Creek Middle School. I can guarantee that, I have photographic proof. They're building the building, they're going to open it, it's a great middle school.

TE: What year?

PS: The year it started.

BS: He'll be twenty-nine next month.

PS: Twenty years ago, close to twenty years ago. So, I was thinking. They're going to start this school, why don't we camp out there the night before, so he can be the first person to walk in the building, this brand new school. We have to camp out, because other people will be doing the same thing, and I thought, Nobody's going to do that. So, we got up early, six o'clock that day, got to school an hour and a half early, sat in the parking lot, waiting, waiting. So, I said, why don't we take a picture of you trying to open the door. And the door was open. It was unlocked. The janitor forgot to lock it the night before. So, I took a picture, 6:30 in the morning,

the first day of school, Tucker walking in the door. So, he is the first kid to ever go to Cane Creek Middle School: Tucker Norris Stone.

TE: I think the two of you were and still are amazing parents, and probably amazing grandparents as well.

PS: If we're so good, how come our children all live far away?

TE: You know, you can't keep a chain on them forever

JR: They develop their wings.

BS: And we kind of said we wanted that to happen, so... now we're stuck.

TE: Be careful what we ask for, right? To want independent children when they get older. Each of you have mentioned many positive things of living in Fairview then and now. Any negatives? I know you mentioned a couple in terms of

BS: Incidents

TE: But just generally any negatives. For instance, at the risk of classifying myself. I'm a newbie here. I've only lived here five years. I was welcomed by many people. I felt embraced, Judith being one of them. How do you think new people moving into Fairview, which I think are a lot, has affected if at all what you think about Fairview?

BS: I am hopeful that people would move to Fairview to stay and to be here and not necessarily as a second home. On our dirt road there are a lot of homes built and sold and I took bread and I never saw these people and so I'm going to just leave a note and leave this loaf of bread, the bears may get it, I don't know. We hardly ever see them. Whereas if someone moves into the community and is here and invests in the community and their time, then I'm really excited about it. We're fairly confident, maybe we're overconfident, that Fairview's not going to be super-developed all the way out where we are. I can't find it, and I hope it hasn't been thrown

away, but we did drive down 74 before they widened it, with a movie camera to take a picture of the old Fairview

PS: The old two-lane road, we shot a whole video of it all the way down the mountain

BS: I hope I can find it

TE: I wish we could have that in the collection

PS: If we find it we can give it to you. Little tiny cassette kind of thing

TE: We have a couple of photos but that would be great

PS: There was a beautiful old willow tree shortly before you get to the gap, it was near the road. I pulled up, it was a giant willow tree and took a cutting off it, because I knew it was going to go. But my cutting died. I was unable to preserve that tree.

JR: We moved here fifteen years ago, and we did the same thing, not with a movie camera but we just took pictures of the highway coming out. We love it the way it is, but it's not going to be like this forever. There were still cows on the side of the road, so I'm so glad we did that.

TE: And change is coming. In five years I've seen a lot of new development coming up, and there's more now already. I hesitate to say I don't want any of that because I'm one of those people who came here, but I don't want it to change, because it took a long time to find.

BS: I don't want it to be like South Asheville, 25, one continuous strip.

PS: I would say the biggest negative about Fairview is the same negative that is true about Asheville, is that prices have gotten so expensive that only people with a lot of money can afford to live in these places. So, you have this stratification, and you have this tourist/retiree bias going on in the population. It's not that they aren't great people but you want the whole

range and you want people who can't afford to live in expensive places to live in Fairview, and that's getting very hard.

BS: Our kids couldn't afford to buy land here.

TE: In many of the interviews that Judith and I have done, I think you referenced earlier, Judith, that many of those were people that were born and raised here and have family land and they're trying to hold on to it as well. We've heard discussions about the number of dairy farms that were here at one time and how that's decreased to almost nonexistence. It's kind of hard to see, but on the other hand, what can one do?

BS: You can't blame people for wanting to live here.

PS: We're part of the same trend.

TE: I feel blessed every day when I look out, walk outside, I live in a woods which is wonderful. Are there any thoughts that either of you have that we've not touched on in questioning or that have not popped up naturally that you would like to share with us?

PS: I got one. The Lord's Acre Garden, over there across from Angelo's? I started that. I helped start it. About ten years ago I was thinking, All these problems in the world, what can we do, we can't solve all these problems. Let's do something hands-on, let's grow food and give it away. And the great thing about coming up with that idea was how many people instantly responded to it. And there were people of all walks and faiths and nonfaiths jumped on it and made it happen. People did just amazing stuff, donated tractor trailer loads of turkey manure, offered to put porta-johns on the property, maintain them, and have done so since day one. They lent us huge tractors, people have volunteered hours and hours and hours. So that garden so far has given away over 200,000 pounds of fresh organic produce, mostly to Food for Fairview. In ten years it's, always having trouble raising money, but that's always part of being a nonprofit.

It's thrived on that because people came together of all paths to work on it. That's been a great effort, primarily Fairview people doing that, and it's been a real blessing to the community. People needed it.

JR: That's to your credit.

BS and PS: That's to everyone's credit.

PS: I started the ball rolling.

BS: And there was another member of our church who started Food for Fairview. They're no longer here, but Susan Parks initiated the idea, and people came together to make it possible. It's quite possible to live in Fairview and not be aware of the people who are struggling and the hunger. That's one thing that living at the Clarke farm and having people who work on the farm live in Fairview and Gerton are neighbors. You come in contact with them every day and you know what their concerns are. It's hard to offer help and have help be received unless the people who need the help are involved in working on it in some way. Susan Parks had I can't remember how many kids they had, they had a huge family, and they were a working-class family. So, it was much easier for people to respond to her than to someone coming in from the outside who has food and that sort of thing. As great as Food for Fairview is, when Pat got involved with Food for Fairview he saw that they weren't getting fresh food.

PS: Food for Fairview is great, they feed forty to sixty families a week, they do a tremendous job of rounding up all this food organizing, browse and pick out what you want. Not one person who works there, including the executive director, the pantry manager, gets paid a cent. They are a hundred percent volunteer. So that's a great group.

BS: It's one of the few, and I don't know if you've talked to them. It's one of the few food pantries where people shop, as opposed to being given a box of food. And the Welcome

Table, all of it trying to get food to people, and again a member of our church got that going here in Fairview. She volunteered at the one in Black Mountain, and then tried to establish it here. There are a lot of good things happening. And I found it worked for us, for community building. The Fairview Athletic Association worked for community building, because again there were parents there that I would never have met otherwise, and we've become good friends.

JR: I was going to say, Isn't there also a program for children to get food during the summer when school's not in?

BS: Yes

JR: Is that part of the same

BS: Welcome Table helps with that some, too. But their leadership, she burned out, so I'm not sure how Welcome Table is functioning at this point.

PS: Once a month

BS: I don't know if they still do the backpacks of food for kids.

TE: Speaking of food and children and summer, this might be just a little bit off, but are either of you aware of for instance the Fairview Elementary School when they have half-days, do the children have to eat lunch at ten o'clock in the morning before they leave, or do they get a bag lunch?

BS: I don't know what they do.

TE: Because that's something that the county where I came from started so that children when they went home they could take a bag lunch with them and they would have lunch. I was wondering whether that was something that was going on here.

BS: I don't know. You should ask. You know Angels of Fairview? Fairview Angels? Whatever that volunteer organization started by parents. I think the mom was a teacher, and she

and her husband started that way, things they became aware of through teaching at the elementary school. There are all sorts of little groups and I've been honored when I get called in to tell stories, and it's primarily through Annie because she bridges class distinctions in this community beautifully. But when I go in to entertain the auxiliary of the fire department, it's just, and of course I'm happy to do it for free. I feel as though if there were a better sense of community throughout our nation, we would not be at such odds with each other.

TE: We've become separated in a lot of ways.

BS: Yeah. And you go into a lot of communities, and there's nobody there. Suburban and urban communities, nobody on the street, nobody there, you think, Where is this community? It doesn't exist if people aren't there.

TE: Well, there is a real sense of community here.

BS: Yes, yes, and over distances.

TE: When you consider it's not a town.

BS: Yeah, you have to walk to get to your neighbor.

TE: Anything else? Thank you, Becky Stone, Pat Stone, so much. This has been so interesting, and thank you so much for sharing

BS: Sure. Pat's a good one for remembering all these stories and events, so I'm glad he was here.

PS: You want to get a recording of that story.

END OF INTERVIEW